AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   *(Currently Amended)* A color correction apparatus for correcting, on the basis of color image data representing a color image by a plurality of elemental color elements, said color image data, said apparatus comprising:

[[an]] object pixel summing up means for carrying out summing up with respect to a fixed color pixel on the basis of substantially all said color image data;

[[a]] color adjustment amount computing means for obtaining a color adjustment amount for canceling a difference between the optimum value predetermined for said fixed color pixel and the result of said summing up;

[[a]] color adjustment amount correcting means for correcting said color adjustment amount on the basis of said fixed elemental color elements of said pixel; and

[[a]] color correcting means for color correcting said color image data on the basis of the color adjustment amount corrected by said color adjustment amount correcting means.

2.   (Original)   The correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said object pixel summing up means judges, as said fixed color pixel, a pixel in which a hue value obtained on the basis of said color image data is within a fixed range, and carries out summing up with respect to said judged pixel

3.   *(Currently Amended)* A color correction apparatus for correcting, on the basis of

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color image data representing a color image by a plurality of elemental color elements, said color image data, said apparatus comprising:

object pixel summing up means for carrying out summing up with respect to a fixed color pixel on the basis of said color image data;

color adjustment amount computing means for obtaining a color adjustment amount for canceling a difference between the optimum value predetermined for said fixed color pixel and the result of said summing up;

color adjustment amount correcting means for correcting said color adjustment amount on the basis of said fixed elemental color elements of said pixel; and

color correcting means for color correcting said color image data on the basis of the color adjustment amount corrected by said color adjustment amount correcting means,

~~The correction apparatus according to claim 1,~~ wherein said color adjustment amount correcting means corrects said color adjustment amount on the basis of only addition and subtraction operation of the fixed elemental color elements of each pixel.

4.   *(Currently Amended)* The correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said object pixel summing up means judges, as said fixed color pixel, a pixel in which a hue value with respect to a memory color is within a fixed range, and [[carry]]carries out summing up with respect to said judged pixel.

5.   (Original)   The correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said color adjustment amount computing means computes an average value for every elemental color element of said color image data with respect to each pixel judged as an object pixel, and uses said average value as the result of summing up of said color adjustment amount computing means, and

said color adjustment amount computing means has the optimum value for every elemental color element with respect to the image data to be a fixed color.

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6.   (Original)   The correction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said color correcting means corrects, in controlling a level of the elemental color elements, a tone curve representative of an input/output relation according to said corrected color adjustment amount to carry out color correcting of the color image data.

7.   *(Currently Amended)* A color correction method of[[for]] correcting, on the basis of color image data representing a color image by a plurality of elemental color elements, said color image data, said method comprising:

an object pixel summing up step of[[for]] out summing-up with respect to a fixed-color pixel on the basis of substantially all said color image data;

a color adjustment amount computing step of[[for]] obtaining a color adjustment amount for canceling a difference between the optimum value predetermined for said fixed-color pixel and the result of said summing-up;

a color adjustment amount correcting step of [[for]] correcting said color adjustment amount on the basis of said fixed elemental color elements of said pixel; and

a color correcting step of[[for]] color correcting said color image data on the basis of the color adjustment amount corrected [[by]]in said color adjustment amount correcting [[means]]step.

8.   *(Currently Amended)* A computer readable medium having a program of instructions for execution by [[the]]a computer to perform color correction processing for correcting, on the basis of color image data representing a color image by a plurality of elemental color elements, said color image data, said color correction processing comprising:

an object pixel summing up processing for carrying out summing up with respect to a fixed color pixel on the basis of substantially all said color image data;

a color adjustment amount computing processing for obtaining a color adjustment amount for canceling a difference between the optimum value predetermined for said fixed color pixel and the result of said summing up;

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a color adjustment amount correcting processing for correcting said color adjustment amount on the basis of said fixed elemental color elements of said pixel; and

a color correcting processing for color correcting said color image data on the basis of the color adjustment amount corrected by said color adjustment amount correcting processing.

9.   *(Currently Amended)* A color correction apparatus for correcting, on the basis of color image data representing a color image by a plurality of elemental color elements, said color image data, <u>said apparatus</u> comprising:

an object pixel summing up device that carries out summing up with respect to a fixed color pixel on the basis of <u>substantially all</u> said color image data;

a color adjustment amount computing device that obtains a color adjustment amount for canceling a difference between the optimum value predetermined for said fixed color pixel and the result of said summing up;

a color adjustment amount correcting device that corrects said color adjustment amount on the basis of said fixed elemental color elements of said pixel; and

a color correcting device that color corrects said color image data on the basis of the color adjustment amount corrected by said color adjustment amount correcting device.

10.   (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said summing up means comprises means for computing the result of said summing up based on all pixels of the color image.

11.   (new) The method of claim 7, wherein said summing up step comprises processing all pixels of the color image to obtain the result of said summing up step.

12.   (new) The medium of claim 8, wherein said summing up processing comprises processing all pixels of the color image to obtain the result of said summing up processing.

13.   (new) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said summing up device is configured to compute the result of said summing up based on all pixels of the color image.

14.   (new) A method of correcting color image data of a color image comprising a plurality of pixels, wherein the color of each of said pixels is represented by a set of elementary color values and the elementary color values of said pixels constitute said color image data, said method comprising:

determining whether the color of each of said pixels belongs to a region of a predetermined reference color;

calculating a color adjustment amount based on the elementary color values of all the pixels that belong to the region of said reference color;

adjusting said color adjustment amount based on elementary color values of said reference color; and

correcting said color image data based on the adjusted color adjustment amount obtained in the adjusting step;

wherein said calculating is performed regardless of the number of the pixels that belong to the region of said reference color.

15.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said determining is performed based on hue values of said pixels.

16.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said calculating comprises creating a histogram of said color image.

17.   (new) The method of claim 16, wherein said creating comprises adding to said histogram the elementary color values of only the pixels that belong to the region of said reference color.

18.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein, in said calculating, the color adjustment amount is calculated using frequencies corresponding to the colors of the pixels that belong to the region of said reference color.

19.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said determining comprises processing all pixels of said color image.

20.   (new) The method of claim 14, wherein

said calculating comprises creating multiple histograms corresponding to multiple reference colors; and

in said determining, each and every pixel of said color image is processed to determine whether the color of said pixel belongs to a region of any of said multiple reference colors, and if so, the elementary color value of said pixel is added, in said calculating, to only the histogram corresponding to the reference color to the region of which the color of said pixel belongs.